

WASHINGTON, D.C. - WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) joined  
January 24, 2006

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice Secretary of State U.S. Department of State Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Secretary Rice:

We are writing to express our concern about the continuing crisis facing several hundred Sudanese refugees.

We appreciate the fact that Egypt has accommodated an estimated 2-3 million Sudanese within its borders.

We recognize that negotiations had been occurring between the refugees, officials at the UNHCR Cairo, and the Egyptian government.

While all of the Sudanese refugees were initially placed in detention, the Egyptian government, to its credit, has since released them.

Many of the facts leading up to the confrontation remain unclear; however, we firmly believe that the refugees were not the aggressors.

We further believe that there are very credible reports regarding the use of excessive force by the Egyptian security forces.

We believe there is more than enough blame to be shared for the deaths, detentions and precarious situations of the refugees.

Once again, we urge you to express in the strongest terms the U.S. government's opposition to the deportation of the refugees.

Thank you in advance for your immediate attention to these requests and our concerns.

Sincerely,

James P. McGovern

Donald Payne

John Olver

Barbara Lee

Richard Neal

Christopher H. Smith

Al Green

Michael H. Michaud

Robert E. Andrews

Peter DeFazio

Eni F. H. Faleomavaega

Michael Honda

Mark Udall

Mike Capuano

Charles Rangel

Marty Meehan  
Jim Moran  
Bill Delahunt  
Julia M. Carson  
Carolyn Maloney  
Jan Schakowsky  
Tom Lantos  
Joseph Crowley  
Danny K. Davis  
Juanita Millender-McDonald  
Nita Lowey  
Frank Wolf  
David Scott  
Maxine Waters

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Members of Congress

cc: C. David Welch, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs  
Barry F. Lowenkron, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor  
Francis J. Ricciardone, U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, Cairo, Egypt  
Nabil Fahmy, Ambassador to the United States, Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Washington, D.C.  
Wendy Young, Governmental Affairs, UNHCR, Washington Office